

REMARKS

With respect to the above-identified application, Applicants received a Notice of Abandonment and Interview Summary on October 23, 2003, mailed by the PTO on October 14, 2003 (copy enclosed) stating that this application is abandoned in view of Applicants' failure to timely respond to the Office Action mailed by the PTO on March 12, 2003. Applicants submit that the Examiner's holding of abandonment is erroneous for the following reasons:

1. On March 17, 2003, Applicants received an Office Action mailed by the PTO on March 12, 2003 (copy enclosed). Applicants filed a 21-page response to the Office Action on June 25, 2003 via U.S. first-class mail (copy enclosed). Applicants also submit a copy of the return postcard confirming that Applicants' response had successfully been received by the PTO on June 27, 2003.

2. Applicants responded in a timely manner to the Office Action mailed on March 12, 2003. Nevertheless, on October 23, 2003, Applicants received a Notice of Abandonment mailed by the PTO on October 14, 2003.

3. Applicants have no history of failure to prosecute the above-identified application, as indicated by a review of Applicants' file record (copy enclosed).

In view of the foregoing, Applicants seek favorable action by the Commissioner to reverse the Examiner's holding of abandonment of the above-identified application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the March 12, 2003 Office Action be viewed as having been responded to in a timely fashion and that the processing of the application to issuance be continued.

Respectfully submitted,

By Angela Marie Stone
Angela Marie Stone
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 41,335
(513) 634-9397

Oct 28, 2003

Customer No. 27752